

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE)
COMMISSION,)
)
Plaintiff,)
)
v.) 1:24CV771
)
WILLIAM RHEW, III,)
)
Defendant.)

CONSENT JUDGMENT

The Securities and Exchange Commission having filed a complaint, and Defendant William Rhew III ("Rhew" or "Defendant") having entered a general appearance, consented to the court's jurisdiction over him and the subject matter of this action, consented to entry of this Judgment without admitting or denying the allegations of the complaint (except admitting as to jurisdiction and except as otherwise provided herein in paragraph VI), waived findings of fact and conclusions of law, and waived any right to appeal from this Judgment:

I.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that Defendant is permanently restrained and enjoined from violating, directly or indirectly, Section 10(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Exchange Act") [15 U.S.C. § 78j(b)] and Rule 10b-5 promulgated thereunder [17 C.F.R. § 240.10b-5], by, using any means or instrumentality of interstate commerce, or of the mails,

or of any facility of any national securities exchange, in connection with the purchase or sale of any security:

- (a) to employ any device, scheme, or artifice to defraud;
- (b) to make any untrue statement of a material fact or to omit to state a material fact necessary in order to make the statements made, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading; or
- (c) to engage in any act, practice, or course of business which operates or would operate as a fraud or deceit upon any person,

by, directly or indirectly, (i) creating a false appearance or otherwise deceiving any investor or prospective investor, or (ii) disseminating false or misleading documents, materials, or information or making, either orally or in writing, any false or misleading statement in any communication with any investor or prospective investor, about:

- (A) any investment strategy or investment,
- (B) the prospects for success of any product or company,
- (C) the use or intended use of investor funds,
- (D) compensation to any person, or
- (E) returns from the investment.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that, as provided in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 65(d)(2), the foregoing paragraph also binds the following who receive actual notice of this Judgment by personal service or otherwise: (a) Defendant's respective officers, agents, servants, employees, and attorneys; and (b) other persons in active concert or participation with Defendant or with anyone described in (a).

II.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that Defendant is permanently restrained and enjoined from violating, directly or indirectly, Section 17(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 (the "Securities Act") [15 U.S.C. § 77q(a)] by, in the offer or sale of any security, using any means or instruments of transportation or communication in interstate commerce or the mails, directly or indirectly:

- (a) to employ any device, scheme, or artifice to defraud;
- (b) to obtain money or property by means of any untrue statement of a material fact or any omission of a material fact necessary in order to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading; or
- (c) to engage in any transaction, practice, or course of business which operates or would operate as a fraud or deceit upon the purchaser;

by, directly or indirectly, (i) creating a false appearance or otherwise deceiving any investor or prospective investor, or (ii) disseminating false or misleading documents, materials, or information or making, either orally or in writing, any false or misleading statement in any communication with any investor or prospective investor, about:

- (A) any investment strategy or investment,
- (B) the prospects for success of any product or company,
- (C) the use or intended use of investor funds,
- (D) compensation to any person, or
- (E) returns from the investment.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that, as provided in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 65(d)(2), the foregoing paragraph also binds the following who receive actual notice of this Judgment by personal service or otherwise: (a) Defendant's respective officers, agents, servants, employees, and attorneys; and (b) other persons in active concert or participation with Defendant or with anyone described in (a).

III.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that, pursuant to Section 21(d)(2) of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. § 78u(d)(2)]

and Section 20(e) of the Securities Act [15 U.S.C. § 77t(e)], Defendant is prohibited from acting as an officer or director of any issuer that has a class of securities registered pursuant to Section 12 of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. § 78l] or that is required to file reports pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. § 78o(d)].

IV.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that, Defendant is enjoined from directly or indirectly, including, but not limited to, through any entity owned or controlled by Defendant, participating in the issuance, purchase, offer, or sale of any security, provided, however, that such injunction shall not prevent Defendant from purchasing or selling securities for his own personal account.

V.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that Defendant shall pay disgorgement of ill-gotten gains or unjust enrichment and prejudgment interest thereon, and shall pay civil penalties pursuant to Section 20(d) of the Securities Act [15 U.S.C. § 77t(d)] and Section 21(d)(3) of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. § 78u(d)(3)]. The court shall determine the amount of the disgorgement and civil penalty which shall be imposed upon Defendant upon motion of the Commission. Prejudgment interest on the disgorgement shall be calculated from November 30, 2017, based

on the rate of interest used by the Internal Revenue Service for the underpayment of federal income tax as set forth in 26 U.S.C. § 6621(a)(2). In connection with the Commission's motion for disgorgement and/or civil penalties, and at any hearing held on such a motion: (a) Defendant will be precluded from arguing that Defendant did not violate the federal securities laws as alleged in the complaint; (b) Defendant may not challenge the validity of the Consent or this Judgment; (c) solely for the purposes of such motion, the allegations of the complaint shall be accepted as and deemed true by the court; and (d) the court may determine the issues raised in the motion on the basis of affidavits, declarations, excerpts of sworn deposition or investigative testimony, and documentary evidence, without regard to the standards for summary judgment contained in Rule 56(c) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. In connection with the Commission's motion for disgorgement and/or civil penalties, the parties may take discovery, including discovery from appropriate non-parties.

VI.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that, solely for purposes of exceptions to discharge set forth in Section 523 of the Bankruptcy Code, 11 U.S.C. § 523, the allegations in the complaint are true and admitted by Defendant, and further, any debt for disgorgement, prejudgment interest, civil penalty or

other amounts due by Defendant under this Judgment or any other judgment, order, consent order, decree or settlement agreement entered in connection with this proceeding, is a debt for the violation by Defendant of the federal securities laws or any regulation or order issued under such laws, as set forth in Section 523(a)(19) of the Bankruptcy Code, 11 U.S.C. § 523(a)(19).

VII.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that Defendant, and his officers, agents, employees, servants, attorneys, any bank or financial institution holding any assets of Defendant and all persons in active concert or participation with them who receive actual notice of this Judgment by personal service or otherwise, including facsimile transmission, electronic mail, or overnight delivery service, are hereby restrained and enjoined from destroying, mutilating, concealing, altering, disposing, or transferring custody of any items relating to Defendant or the misconduct described in the complaint, including but not limited to any books, records, documents, correspondence, contracts, agreements, assignments, obligations, tape recordings, computer media or other property.

VIII.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that Defendant shall submit in writing and serve upon the Commission,

within thirty (30) business days following service of this Judgment upon him, an accounting identifying and specifying the location of:

1. all assets of every type and description with a value of at least one thousand dollars (\$1,000) presently owned by or held for the direct or indirect benefit, or subject to the direct or indirect control, of Defendant, whether in the United States or elsewhere; and

2. all accounts held at any bank, brokerage or other financial institution in the United States or elsewhere in the name, for the direct or indirect benefit, or under the direct or indirect control, of Defendant, or in which Defendant has or had any direct or indirect beneficial interest, at any time from August 31, 2017, to the present.

Nothing in this Judgment shall be construed to require that Defendant abandon or waive any constitutional or other legal privilege which he may have available to him including his Fifth Amendment privilege against self-incrimination. In turn, nothing in this Judgment shall prevent the SEC from opposing or challenging any assertion by Defendant of any Fifth Amendment privilege against self-incrimination, or any other constitutional or other legal privilege.

IX.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that Defendant shall submit in writing to the Commission, within thirty (30)

business days following service of this Judgment upon him, a list of all street and mailing addresses (including without limitation postal box numbers), telephone or facsimile transmission numbers (including without limitation pagers and mobile telephones), electronic mail addresses, safety deposit boxes, and storage facilities used by him or under his direct or indirect control, at any time since August 31, 2017.

X.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that the Consent is incorporated herein with the same force and effect as if fully set forth herein, and that Defendant shall comply with all of the undertakings and agreements set forth therein.

XI.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that this court shall retain jurisdiction of this matter for the purposes of enforcing the terms of this Judgment and for purposes of ordering further relief.

XII.

There being no just reason for delay, pursuant to Rule 54(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the Clerk is ordered to enter this Judgment forthwith and without further notice.

November 22, 2024

/s/ Thomas D. Schroeder
United States District Judge